

**Rowe School Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 12, 2011**

The Massachusetts Open Meeting Law requires minutes for all school committee and subcommittee meetings. The recorded minutes are open to the public for inspection within 10 days of the meeting. Minutes are recorded to provide a brief overview that reflects the subject matter discussed and any decisions made. Motions made are to clearly indicate who made the motion and who seconded the motion. Record who was in favor, who opposed, or who abstained. The names of any person(s) appearing before the committee are to be indicated.

Documents: Rowe School Committee Meeting Minutes for January 11, 2011
Rowe School Committee Meeting Minutes for February 22, 2011
Rowe School Committee Meeting Minutes for March 8, 2011
March 18, 2011 email from Superintendent Michael A. Buoniconti to Rowe School Committee re: Rowe Custodian Position
March 22, 2011 letter from the Town of Rowe Board of Selectman to Rowe School Committee re: FY2012 Budget
Strategies for Communicating With Elementary Students
****March 17, 2011- email from Bill Loomis to Lisa Danek Burke and Maggie Rice re: Executive Session, Superintendent Evaluation and Custodial Position.**
Draft 4-12-11 Superintendent Performance Goals School Year 2010-2011
April 4, 2011 Principal Report
Mohawk Trail Regional School System 2011-2012 Calendar
March 31, 2011 letter from Dupere Law Offices to Wells Fargo Equipment Finance, Inc. re: Lease of 71 Passenger bus
Budget Transfer Sheet
April 11, 2011 email from Principal Bob Clancy to Superintendent Michael Buoniconti re: Rowe School Committee Meeting Action Item
IMG Animals in School IMG Animals in School Proposed Revisions
Special Rowe Elementary School District Study Committee
**** Amended item added to Agenda**

1. Call to Order:

Maggie Rice called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

Roll Call: Ruth Manna, Joanne Blier, Michael Buoniconti, Lisa Danek Burke, Maggie Rice, Bill Loomis, Bob Clancy and Pat Bell were present.

2. Audience of Citizens:

Please see attached list.

****Mary Paige** read the Citizen's Petition to save Bob Clancy's Position at Rowe School – See Appendix A

****Jack Williams** read a letter from the new Rowe Study Committee – See Appendix B

****Lisa Miller** spoke regarding attending school committee meetings and not having information presented and available.

****Melanie Gokey** spoke regarding her children attending Rowe School and what the future will hold for her and her family at the school and would like to have Mr. Clancy stay as the Rowe School Principal. Superintendent Buoniconti answered Mrs. Gokey's question. All employee records are confidential.

****Jack Packard** spoke regarding a motion that was made and passed at Special Town Meeting re: non binding resolutions passed by voters. See: Handouts

****Prudence Berry** spoke asking if there is a legal way that Mr. Clancy's position can be discussed. Superintendent Buoniconti said that there is no legal way this can be discussed.

**** Jack Williams** asked if Bob Clancy could open the issue as of why his contract was not renewed. If he approves could it then be made public? Maggie Rice will take it under consideration.

** Laurie Pike asked if we will find out who is on the Principal Search Committee. Superintendant Buoniconti will discuss under report of the Superintendent. He will be able to discuss the construction of the committee and when they will be meeting.

** Bill Loomis made a motion that the School Committee go into Executive Session under MGL 38 section 21a-1 to discuss the reputation and the physical condition or mental health rather than professional competence of an individual or to discuss the discipline of this reaction. The reason is to discuss the Bob Clancy issue of non contract renewal. Lisa Danek Burke added: That section goes on to say: The individual to be discussed in such Executive Session should be notified in writing by the public body at least 48 hours prior to the proposed Executive Session. Bill Loomis followed by adding: Notification may be **waived** upon written agreement to the parties. So it could be **waived** and the Executive Session could also be **waived**. Since there is not a second it will be brought to School Committee Legal Council and look into it from there.

**It was asked since this was a confidential matter with the superintendent then does the School Committee know the reason why Mr. Clancy's contract was not renewed other than financial reasons? Maggie Rice had no comment.

3. Approval of Minutes:

- A. A motion was made by Bill Loomis and seconded by Maggie Rice to approve the March 8, 2011 School Committee Meeting Minutes as read with the revision to say if appropriate regarding letter from Cliff Paige to be read at next meeting. Lisa Danek Burke abstained from unanimous vote.
- B. A motion was made by Lisa Danek Burke and seconded by Maggie Rice to approve the January 11, 2011 School Committee Meeting Minutes as read. Unanimous yes vote.
- C. A motion was made by Lisa Danek Burke and seconded by Bill Loomis to approve the Rowe School Committee Meeting Minutes for February 22, 2011 as read. Unanimous yes vote.

4. Correspondence:

- A. March 18, 2011 email from Superintendent Michael A. Buoniconti to Rowe School Committee re: Rowe Custodian Position See Appendix C

** Discussion: The school committee acknowledges that they received the letter from Cliff Paige but will not read it. It was already published in a publication and there was a response given my Mr. Buoniconti to the letter and they have moved on from there. The letter has already been made public by being published. Bill Loomis has submitted his comments to Superintendent Buoniconti's email regarding this issue. – See Appendix Q

- B. March 22, 2011 letter from Town of Rowe Board of Selectmen to Rowe School Committee re: FY2012 Budget - See Appendix D

** A motion was made by Bill Loomis and seconded by Lisa Danek Burke to disregard this letter and keep the budget at 2½% increase over last year's budget. Unanimous yes vote. ** Discussion: Bill Loomis discussed that the school committee worked very hard to come within a 2½% budget which is very difficult and the Finance Committee doesn't agree with this. Lisa Danek Burke added that the school committee has been working since fall on this budget. It has been requested that the school committee and the Finance Committee had a joint meeting and at that time they did not ask for a decrease in the budget. So it was very upsetting that they asked 1 month later for this decrease to 1%. Maggie Rice added that they worked very hard and they had to make decreases in the budget to make the 2½% and to ask the school committee to cut another \$18, 326.00 would only cause more issues. ****Superintendent Buoniconti added that in past years it had been standard practice to have a 6% to 7% increase in the budget proposal but this year is not like past years and the average increase for employees is ½ that at approximately 3%.**

**** Amended item added to Agenda**

- C. March 25, 2011 letter summarizing the letter from the LEC to the school committee regarding the members of the LEC expressing their disappointment that their letter was not read at the last meeting. However it was stated at the last meeting that it was included in the school committee packets and all of the committee members had it and it was read by all of the committee members. See Appendix E

5. Unfinished Business:

- A. Solar Panels – The solar panels have been adjusted for the summer. They will be changed every summer and winter.
- B. Holiday Inn – Questions on the Holiday Inn bill. The bill has been pulled from the warrant and will be reviewed. They will look into other options other than boxed lunches and the buffet breakfast.

6. Report of the Chairperson:

- A. None

7. Report of the Superintendent:

- A. Bus Driving Training Initiative (Ruth Manna) – See Appendix F
- B. Proposed FY12 Budget – Please see correspondence-Section C.
- C. Rowe Principal Position – Judy Willis sent an email out to Rowe Families and Staff on March 3, 2011 to be on the Principal Hiring Committee. Out of the 16 who volunteered 10 were picked by Superintendent Buoniconti. 3 teachers, 4 parents, 1 community rep and 2 administrators will be on the committee. The first scheduled meeting will be on April 14th at 3:30pm.
- D. Annual Town Meeting – See Appendix G
- E. 2011-2012 School Calendar – See Action Items
- F. Superintendent's Performance Goals 2010-2011 –
A motion was made by Lisa Danek Burke and seconded by Bill Loomis to accept the superintendent performance goals for the school year FY2010-2011 as provided in the packet with the understanding that if additional goals (if they can be accomplished by August) are added they will be presented at the May School Committee Meeting. Unanimous yes vote. See Appendix H

8. Financial Information:

- A. None

9. Report of the Principal:

- A. Principal Report – As read – See Appendix I
- B. Added to the calendar will be the Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, April 16th from 7:30am-10:00am. Also, Graduation will be on Monday, June 20th at 6:30pm with school dance to follow.

10. Action Items:

- A. Bill Loomis sent two emails to Maggie Rice and should be included in the minutes. Maggie Rice addressed the issues in the emails. One of the items was from the December 14, 2011 School Committee Minutes that the evaluation of the Superintendent would wait until Maggie Rice returned. It was discussed that it wasn't the evaluation but the superintendent's goals that would be gone over. Mr. Loomis's email will be put in the packet for the next School Committee Meeting. – See Handouts #C.
- B. Vote to adopt 2011-2012 School Year Calendar -
A motion was made by Lisa Danek Burke and seconded by Bill Loomis to vote to approve the Mohawk Trail Regional System 2011-2012 school year calendar as read dated April 6, 2011. Unanimous yes vote. See Appendix J

- C. Vote to authorize lease of 71 passenger bus (bid previously accepted January 11, 2011) –
A motion was made by Lisa Danek Burke and seconded by Bill Loomis to vote to authorize the lease of the 71 passenger bus regarding the bid previously accepted on January 11, 2011. Unanimous yes vote. See Appendix K
- D. Line Item Transfer – Vote to transfer \$2,639.00 from Professional Development Out of District to Building Maintenance Contracted to cover contracted maintenance with Siemens not anticipated for FY11 -
A motion was made by Lisa Danek Burke and seconded by Bill Loomis to vote to transfer \$2,639.00 from Professional Development Out-of-District to Building Maintenance contracted to cover contracted maintenance with Siemens not anticipated for FY11. Unanimous yes vote. - See Appendix L
- E. Revolving Account –
A motion was made by Lisa Danek Burke and seconded by Maggie Rice that the School Committee request the following town meeting article be added to the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and it would read: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee, pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to use a revolving fund with a limit of \$10,000.00 for the 2012 fiscal year to accept fees for School Programs for the purpose of offsetting department costs, in which any remaining funds may be rolled over into a similar revolving fund for fiscal year 2013, or take any action in relation thereto. Bill Loomis abstained from the Unanimous vote. See Appendix M
- F. IMG Animals in School – Second Reading and Adoption including revisions -
A motion was made by Lisa Danek Burke and seconded by Bill Loomis that the Rowe School adopt the IMG Animals in School Policy with the additional revision provided to the committee which includes the authorization of classroom pets as authorized by the principal and school nurse with the appropriate intervention and veterinarian exams. Unanimous yes vote. See Appendix N

11. Subcommittee Reports:

- A. Policy Subcommittee – None
- B. Transportation Subcommittee – We are entering our 3rd year of a 5 year contract with First Student. Information provided by Ruth Manna was also presented at the Transportation Subcommittee Meeting. See Report of the Superintendent #A-Bus Driver Training Initiative
- C. Negotiations Subcommittee – None

12. Handouts:

- A. April 5, 2011 Special Rowe Elementary School District Study Committee Recommendation Report, motion and resolutions. See Appendix O
- B. Motion made and passed at the Rowe Special Town Meeting on Monday, April 11, 2011. To authorize the selectmen to appoint a new committee with access to town counsel with funding up to \$1,000.00 for initial consultation. The committee will do whatever is possible to convince the Superintendent to rehire Bob Clancy at the reduced salary. - Appendix P
- C. March 17, 2011- email from Bill Loomis to Lisa Danek Burke and Maggie Rice re: Executive Session Minutes, Superintendent Evaluation and Custodial Position. See Appendix Q

14. Executive Session:

A. Executive Session, under Chapter 30A, Section 21(a), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and to exit from executive session to adjourn the meeting.

A motion was made by Maggie Rice and seconded by Lisa Danek Burke to go into Executive Session, under Chapter 30A, Section 21(a), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and to exit from executive session to adjourn the meeting. Unanimous yes vote. William Loomis - yes; Maggie Rice - yes
Lisa Danek Burke - yes

15. Adjournment:

A. **A motion was made by Maggie Rice and seconded by William Loomis to adjourn the meeting at 9:56pm.** Unanimous yes vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Laffond

Approved:

Margaret Rice, Chairman

Lisa Danek Burke

William Loomis